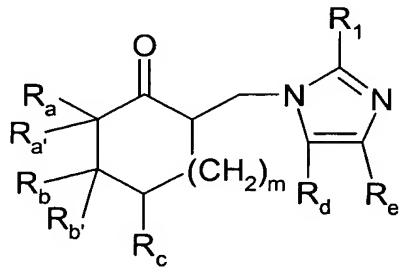
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to formula (I)



wherein:

R_a and R_b are each individually selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxyalkyl, and optionally substituted aryl and heteroaryl; or

R_a and R_b together form a further homocyclic or heterocyclic system comprising one or more rings;

$R_{a'}$ and $R_{b'}$ are each hydrogen or together form a carbon-carbon double bond, said carbon-carbon double bond optionally being part of an aromatic system;

R_c is hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxyalkyl or halogen;

R_d is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

R_e is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

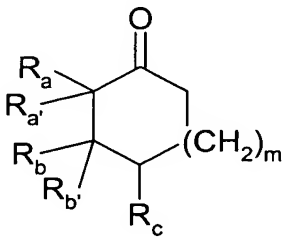
m is 1 or 2; and

R_1 is hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl;

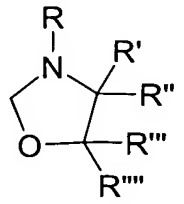
or an acid addition salt thereof;

said method comprising:

a) reacting a compound corresponding to formula (II)



wherein R_a, $R_{a'}$, R_b and $R_{b'}$ have the meanings defined above;
with a compound corresponding to formula (III)



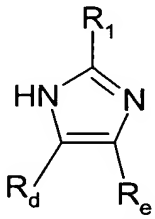
wherein:

R is a hydrogen, a (C_1-C_4)alkyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group, or an optionally substituted aryl group, and

R', R", R"' and R"" are each individually a hydrogen or a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group;

and then

b) reacting a product of step a) with a compound corresponding to formula (IV)



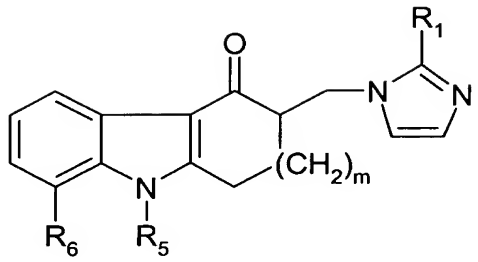
wherein R_1, R_d and R_e have the meanings defined above;

and

c) optionally reacting a product of step b) with an acid to obtain an acid addition salt.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein R_c is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl, and R_1 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

3. A method according to claim 1, for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to the formula (Ia)



wherein:

m is 1 or 2;

R_1 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R_5 is $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, and

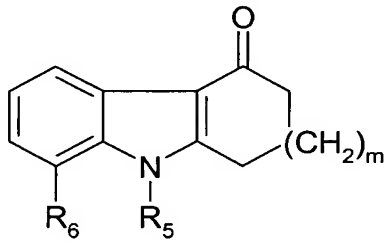
R_6 is hydrogen or $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, or

R_5 and R_6 together with the intermediate atoms form a 5, 6, or 7 member ring, optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxyalkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof;

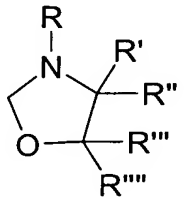
said method comprising:

a) reacting a compound corresponding to the formula (IIa)



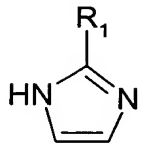
wherein R_5, R_6 and m have the meanings defined above;

with a compound corresponding to the formula (III)



and then

b) reacting a product of a) with a compound corresponding to the formula (IVa)



wherein R1 has the meaning given above.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein R is a 2-hydroxyethyl group, and R', R", R"' and R"" are each hydrogen.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1, and R_5 and R_6 together with the intermediate atoms form a 6-member ring.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1; R_5 is methyl, and R_6 is hydrogen.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in an alcoholic solvent.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the alcoholic solvent is 1-butanol.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a mixture of an alcoholic solvent and an aromatic hydrocarbon

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said mixture is a mixture of methanol and chlorobenzene.